

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-15, 17-25 and 27-30 remain pending in the instant application. Claims 1, 3, 9, 15, 21, 23-25 and 27-30 are amended and claims 2, 16 and 26 are canceled herein. Claims 1, 8, 12-15, 17-20, and 23-30 presently stand rejected. Claims 2-7, 9-11, 16, 21, 22, 26, and 27 are objected to. Entry of this amendment and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner is thanked for the indication in the Office Action mailed 05/31/07 that claims 2, 16 and 26 would be allowable if rewritten into independent form. Accordingly, Applicants have canceled claim 2 and amended independent claim 1 to include all the limitations of canceled claim 2. Similarly, Applicants have canceled claims 16 and 26 and amended their respective independent claims from which they depend to include all the limitations of their respective canceled dependent claims. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 23-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants have amended paragraph [0050] of the specification to delete the sentence “In addition, a machine-readable medium can include propagated signals such as electrical, optical, acoustical or other form of propagated signals (e.g., carrier waves, infrared signals, digital signals, etc.).” Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 23-30 are properly directed to statutory subject matter as required under 35 U.S.C. §101 and request that the §101 rejections be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 8, 15, 17-19, and 23-25, and 28-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cox et al (US 5,349,643) and further in view of Subramanian (US 6,871,210 B1).

“To establish prima facie obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. All words in a claim must be considered in judging the patentability of that claim against the prior art.” M.P.E.P. § 2143.03.

As stated above, independent claim 1 has been amended to include all the limitations of canceled claim 2, which the Examiner has indicated would be allowable if re-written into independent form. Thus, Applicants submit that the cited references fail to disclose each and every element of amended claim 1, as required under M.P.E.P. §2143.03. Independent claims 15 and 23, as amended, include similar nonobvious elements as independent claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the §103(a) rejections of claims 1, 15 and 23 be withdrawn.

Dependent claims 8, 17-19, 24-25 and 28-29 are nonobvious over the cited references for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with their respective independent claims, in addition to adding further limitations of their own. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the instant § 103 rejections of these dependent claims also be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants believe the applicable rejections have been overcome and all claims remaining in the application are presently in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned representative at (206) 292-8600 if the Examiner believes that an interview might be useful for any reason.

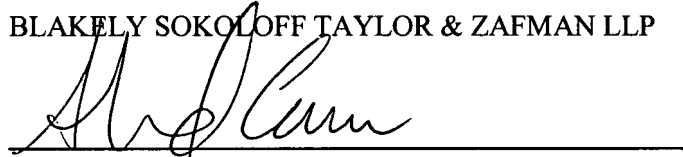
CHARGE DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

It is not believed that extensions of time are required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a). Any fees required therefore are hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-2666. Please credit any overpayment to the same deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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